

STATE SENATOR • RAYMOND E. BASHAM • 8TH DISTRICT

Basham Press Release

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Sen. Basham Speaks at Campaign for Smokefree Air Rally, Calls for Action on Smokefree Workplace Legislation

Bill would protect workers from secondhand smoke in all Michigan workplaces, including bars and restaurants

LANSING, Mich. — Today State Senator Ray Basham (D-Taylor) spoke at a rally at the State Capitol hosted by the “Campaign for Smokefree Air” calling for action on legislation that would make all Michigan workplaces, including bars, restaurants and casinos, smokefree. Basham was joined by Rep. Andy Meisner and several medical experts and bar owners advocating for smokefree workplaces.

“People have the right to breathe clean, smokefree air. That’s why I have been fighting for smokefree workplaces for more than a decade,” said Basham. “Secondhand smoke is one of the biggest health concerns of our generation and a huge burden to state and commercial healthcare resources. It is my hope that the House acts quickly to once and for all protect the people of Michigan.”

The House of Representatives could potentially vote on House Bill 4163, the House version of Senator Basham’s smokefree workplace legislation, sometime before the end of September and as early as this week. If the House approves the Senate-passed version with no amendments or exemptions, the bill can be sent directly to the Governor for her signature.

Every day, thousands of Michigan residents who work in bars, restaurants, offices and factories are involuntarily subjected to secondhand smoke. According to the American Cancer Society, secondhand smoke is the third leading preventable cause of death in the United States, killing 38,000 to 65,000 nonsmokers every year. A study conducted at the University of California, Berkeley found that food service workers are approximately 50% more likely to develop lung cancer than the general public, because many are exposed to secondhand smoke at work. Thirty-three states have already passed similar legislation to protect their workers from deadly exposure to secondhand smoke, including Ohio, Illinois, Iowa and Minnesota.

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